

DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

**The Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901**

Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education
The Cabinet Room

February 3, 2011
1:15 P.M.

Members Present: Joanne Christian, Stephanie DeWitt, Karen Gordon, Christy Greaves, Lori Hudson, Chris Kenton, Wendy Murray, Whitney Price, Shelley Rouser, Kathleen Thomas and Jacqueline Wisnauskas.

Members Absent: Michael Casson, Samtra Devard, Marilyn Dollard, Jill Lewandowski, and David Kohan.

Others Present: Charlie Michels; PSB Executive Director, Paula Fontello; Deputy Attorney General, Peter Shulman; RTTT Chief Officer TLEU Teacher Preparation & Recruitment Christopher Ruszkowski; RTTT Deputy Officer TLEU Teacher Preparation & Recruitment, Amelia Hodges; DOE Associate Secretary for College and Workforce Readiness, Dale Derrickson, DOE Education Associate Skilled and Technical Sciences, Michelle Kriss; Secretary to PSB, and Judi Coffield: State Board of Education Policy Analyst.

Visitors Present: Nick Buono; New Castle County New Castle County Vocational Technical School District (NCCVTSD), Charles Hoard; NCCVTSD, Jack King; New Castle County Vo-Tech, Colleen Conaty; St. Georges Technical High School, Gerald Allen; NCCVTSD

I. Opening

Call to Order: Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to Order at 1:25 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ms. Murray and seconded by Mr. Kenton to approve the February 3, 2011 Amended Agenda. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of January 6, 2011: A motion was made by Ms. Wisnauskas and seconded by Dr. Rouser to approve the PSB Minutes of January 6, 2011. The motion carried.

II. Public Comment

Mr. Michels noted that three people had signed up for Public Comment and stated that each individual would have three minutes to speak if speaking personally and if speaking on

behalf of an organization, a maximum of five minutes. Mr. Michels noted that Public Comment is Public Comment; the Board will therefore not respond to questions or comments.

Mr. Nick Buono introduced himself as a Vocational Specialist with the NCCVTSD. Although he earned his Bachelor's of Science degree in Accounting,, he felt that this was not enough to prepare him for the Praxis I test. He noted that new Skilled and Technical Sciences (STS) teachers had to learn how to teach and acquire classroom management skills in addition to earning the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree with coursework. Mr. Buono studied diligently and was lucky enough to pass the Praxis I tests on the first try and was aggressive in taking his additional required courses which took another year and one-half. He felt he was the rare exception to pass the Praxis I tests in under 2 years. Mr. Buono recommended that the Board to consider leaving the 6 year window for passage of Praxis I for STS teachers.

Ms. Thomas asked for additional persons speaking to keep their comments to 3 minutes.

Charles Hoard, President of the NCCVTSD Educational Association, teaches HVAC at Hodgson Vocational-Technical High School. He had to complete 66 classes college while teaching, plus pass the Praxis I tests. He conceded that passing the Praxis I tests is a minimum standard for all educators. He felt that reducing the amount of time to complete coursework and passing the Praxis I tests was not fair to STS teachers. Mr. Hoard recommended keeping the time requirements as they stood.

Jack King is a Vocational Specialist at Delcastle High School, NCCVTSD. Mr. King added that if teachers are rushed to pass the Praxis in a year or two as opposed to the timeframe available now, these educators are going to spend more time worrying about these tests then mastering classroom management. These STS teachers need time to develop the fundamentals of teaching to help students be successful. Mr. King recommended keeping the time requirements at six years.

III. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Michels shared with PSB members that he has recently updated the online Manuals for the Para-educator and Continuing License renewals based on changes in the regulations and changes on DEEDS' screens.
- Mr. Michels met with the State Board of Education (SBE) early in December and shared some current Emergency Certificate data with them. He has since received *eSchool* data which is information connected to students, students schedules, the teachers students have, and whether their teachers are certificated or not. It was suggested by SBE President Gray that Mr. Michels meet with Dr. Lowery, which occurred in mid-January. At the conclusion of the conversation with the Secretary of Education, it was agreed that Mr. Michels would schedule a time to share current Emergency Certificate information directly with the School Chiefs at the earliest possible convenience to them. Mr. Michels had since met w/Dr. Curry, the Lake Forest School District Superintendent about his thoughts and what type of information the School Chiefs would like to see and hear.

- Mr. Michels said he had 2 very productive days working with the ETS Client Representative for Delaware and 4 Praxis II Review Committees at the Collette Center. More information will follow during the Discussion item.
- Mr. Michels spent time on the Aspiring School Leaders Certification Program. The PSB and DOE legal counsels, the Governor's Office and Mr. Shulman's group were involved in the conversations.
- Mr. Michels met and spoke to a relatively small group of District and Higher Education staff that attended the January 12, 2011 DOE Office of Teacher and Administrator Quality Development's Quarterly Meeting. The small attendance was due to inclement weather.
- Mr. Michels participated in a STEM Residency Program review held at the DOE with concerned parties. With Mr. Michels background in Technology Education and related STEM applications, he shared some concerns during the Review regarding the Program's direction and preparation of Residents, what STEM pedagogy curriculum is being offered, what type of STEM applications are being implemented and what the University of Delaware will confer on these Residents at the successful conclusion of the Program. He iterated that at present, there is no Standard Certificate for STEM Teacher.

IV. DOE Report

Mr. Michels introduced Mr. Peter Shulman, Chief Officer, Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Unit. Mr. Shulman stated he is filling in for Mr. Dan Cruce, DOE Deputy Secretary, who typically gives this report. Mr. Shulman gave a brief report on the current status of his Unit's initiatives and completed work.

V. Action Items

A. 1598 Delaware Professional Development Standards

Mr. Michels introduced Dr. Amelia Hodges, DOE Associate Secretary for College and Workforce Readiness. Dr. Hodges gave a brief overview of Delaware's need to establish through regulation Professional Development (PD) Standards. The National Staff Development Council (NSDC) conducted a PD policy audit several years ago to analyze professional development policies across Delaware and to suggest what could be done to strengthen Delaware's professional development. The 2008 Report recommendations included the adoption of standards for professional development certification. A significant PD Task Force was then established to make policy recommendations to the DOE, including a much-discussed definition of PD. At the time however, the DOE chose not to move to adopting PD regulations, but the PSB adopted the Task Force's PD definition and incorporated it into the revision of regulation **1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License**. As a Delaware RTTT pledge to establish a PD certification system in the State, a few people met at the request of Dr. Hodges, including Mr. Michels, to determine what might be a path forward. At a minimum a PD Standards regulation should be adopted, and as the PSB has explicit language in DE Code relating to PD being one of the PSB's responsibilities, Mr. Michels stated he would work on a draft of a regulation using the NSDC's Standards, which other States have adopted verbatim. Mr. Michels said he sent a draft of this new regulation to the Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee and received no concerns.

Ms. Fontello was reluctant to change any of the words in the NSDC's Standards. She felt that the PSB should adopt a regulation that specifically references in ***1598 Delaware Professional Development Standards*** those standards taken directly from the NSDC. A conversation ensued with a few minor language suggestions.

Mr. Michels said this new regulation is being brought before the Board for Approval to Publish with small changes from the current draft: giving credit to the NSDC and re-phrasing Section 1.0. A motion was made by Dr. Rouser and seconded by Dr. Greaves to approve ***1598 Delaware Professional Development Standards*** for Publication. The motion carried.

B. Delaware Code Amendments: *Passing Praxis I for STS educators*

Mr. Michels referred to the DEEDS Report found in Member's folders as a FYI. He stated that the Board had previously approved action for the Legislative Agenda affecting Delaware Code which in turn may affect ***1510 Issuance of Initial License***. The last Legislative Agenda item that was previously discussed and was felt needed more input was the timeframe for STS teachers to pass Praxis I. The time currently stand in DE Code and relevant regulation at 6 years. Mr. Michels stated the Board heard some Public Comment at the onset of the meeting that spoke to this. Mr. Michels then asked Dr. Hodges for the DOE recommendation.

Dr. Hodges stated that there is a balancing act to insure the STS teachers have time to complete both certification and licensure requirements, to learn the pedagogy and necessary classroom management skills, and that these educators remain in education to work with students who value their teachers' expertise. The DOE felt that 6 years to pass the Praxis I tests is too long, but that 2 years may be too little time. Dr. Hodges asked the Board consider all elements of the decision and to be fair. Dr. Hodges noted that she is anticipating the expansion of Career and Technical Career Pathways that will lead to an increase of STS teachers and in turn more students being both career and college ready.

Dr. Rouser (PSB member from NCCVTSD) stated that helping STS teachers navigate through the certification and licensure requirements, not to mention Mentoring and classroom skills requires a significant infrastructure. She suggested that both the PSB and the Career and Technical School Districts should pay more attention to internal infrastructures to build success for STS teachers and to build milestones for these talented teachers to strive for.

Upon further discussion, PSB Members agreed to take no action on this Agenda item.

C. Application and Procedure for Consideration of Delaware Approved Alternative Routes to Certification Programs for School Leaders

Mr. Michels stated that a Delaware RTTT initiative is a Delaware certification program for Aspiring Principals and Assistant Principals. He referred everyone to the handout titled "DOE RTTT RFP for Aspiring Principals and Assistant Principals". The DOE initiated a RFP in early winter of 2010 for such a program. The program requirements cited in the RFP included a cohort of 10-15, summer pre-service training, a school-year-long residency with DE Principal, and post-school-year summer session resulting in the certification of successful participants. Post-program support and

coaching upon subsequent employment were also required. After considerable legal conversation in mid-January, it was determined that the PSB has the authority to approve an alternative route to certification for Principals and Assistant Principals, as cited in regulation ***1591 School Principal and Assistant Principal***.

Ms. Fontello gave a clear and concise summary of the legality of the PSB to take action on approving a program and the review of past Minutes from the Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee (LCCC) who had conversations about what the requirements should be for such a program. It was clear from these minutes to both Ms. Fontello and Mr. Michels that the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) Standards must be the basis for any such program approval.

Ms. Fontello noted that the Board does not have to approve such a program, but if deemed appropriate, they should consider an application and a process. Considerable conversation ensued with questions and concerns about application requirements and formatting, in addition to possible steps in the approval process including the LCCC, the Secretary of Education, the PSB and the SBE.

Mr. Michels reminded the Board that this was an Action Item. Dr. Greaves made a motion to approve the Aspiring School Leader Certification Program Application, with the amendments suggested by Ms. Fontello and Mr. Michels. Mr. Kenton seconded the motion. Upon noting a less than unanimous vote, a roll call vote was requested:

Joanne Christian,	No
Stephanie DeWitt	Yes
Karen Gordon	Yes
Christy Greaves	Yes
Lori Hudson	Yes
Chris Kenton	Yes
Wendy Murray	Yes
Whitney Price	No
Shelley Rouser	Yes
Kathleen Thomas	Yes

The motion failed.

D. 1556 School to work Transition Teacher

Mr. Michels said both LCCC members and the DOE shared no concerns with the presented amended regulation. Dr. Susan Lee, Executive Director of Jobs for Delaware Graduates (JDG), with whom Mr. Michels worked closely, had approved proposed amendments. Due to current time restraints of the meeting, Mr. Michels moved this Action Item to the March 3, 2011 PSB Agenda for Publication.

E. 1584 School Social Worker

Mr. Michels said both LCCC members and the DOE shared no concerns with the presented amended regulation. Due to current time restraints of the meeting, Mr. Michels moved this Action Item to the March 3, 2011 PSB Agenda for Publication.

VI. Discussion

A. 1565 World Language Teacher

This regulation was just published in the February Register of Regulations, and will be discussed with the SBE on February 17, 2011. This regulation will be on the PSB Agenda in March for Final Approval. The Register of Regulation had reformatted the regulation slightly but had made no changes in certification requirements. The Board voiced no further concerns.

B. School Principal / Assistant Principal Certification Program

No action.

C. Praxis II Test Scores for consideration

1. Technology Education
2. Marketing Education
3. Family and Consumer Sciences
4. Health Education

Mr. Michels referred everyone to the document “Praxis II Review Committees” that was to be found in their folders. Mr. Michels spoke briefly of the productive two days during which these 4 certification areas were very well represented in critical reviews of the associated Praxis II tests. He asked Members to review the proposed scores and effective dates. Mr. Michels will put these approvals on the March 3, 2001 PSB meeting Agenda as an Action Item. The SBE would then need to similarly approve the tests scores and effective dates.

VII. Presentation

None.

VIII. PSB Standing Committees

A. Licensure and Certification Criteria

This committee met ‘virtually’, as proposed regulations 1556, 1584 and 1598 were sent to committee members for their review. Responding members indicated approvals and no concerns were shared with Mr. Michels.

B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation

This committee had not met.

IX. Other

Concerns were shared that more relevant information forwarded to Members earlier would be appreciated. Mr. Michels agreed to formulate a plan to do this and Members should look forward to Pilot process.

X. Public Comment

None

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. DeWitt and seconded by Dr. Greaves to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:24p.m.